ABSTRACT

A roll forming apparatus for rolling a selected material around a cylindrical core. The apparatus comprises a core support, a roll support means, and a material supply means. The core support is for supporting the cylindrical core. The core support has an associated core rotation means for rotating the core about a core rotation axis at a controllable rotation rate. The roll support means supports a plurality of forming rolls positioned to surround the core about the core rotation axis. The roll support means has a roll control means operable to both radially position the plurality of forming rolls relative to the core rotation axis and to constrain the plurality of forming rolls to be equally spaced from the core rotation axis, in order to provide integrated adjustment of the plurality of forming rolls to control a radial dimension of a substantially symmetrical forming space defined by the plurality of forming rolls. The material supply means is for supplying the selected material to the core at a material supply rate, and has an associated material supply control means for controlling the material supply rate.